

TIPS

To preserve Limekiln State Park for future generations and ensure the safety of all visitors, please observe the following:

- ✓ **DANGER:** Do not climb on coastal cliffs and Limekiln Canyon walls. They are steep and unstable.
- ✓ **WARNING:** Use extreme caution near the ocean—the cold surf is subject to unexpectedly high waves and strong currents.
- ✓ Dogs must be kept on a 6-foot leash at all times and are not allowed on trails or in undeveloped areas. There is no charge for guide or service dogs.
- ✓ Fires are allowed only in fire rings provided. Gathering of downed wood is prohibited. Visitors must provide their own firewood.
- ✓ All natural and cultural features are protected by law and may not be removed or altered.
- ✓ Firearms and hunting are prohibited on State Park lands.
- ✓ Please help us preserve the natural features of the park by staying on the trails.
- ✓ Learn to identify and avoid poison oak.



Poison Oak has an oily substance on its leaves and a juice that is highly irritating to the skin. Note carefully the shape of the leaves, which turn from a shiny green in the spring to a rich orange and red in the fall. You can best avoid contact with it if you stay on the trails or stay in the designated campground and picnic areas. If you and your children are not sure what poison oak looks like, ask a ranger to identify it for you.

California State Parks Information

California's 264 state parks, beaches, historic sites and recreation areas cover more than 1.3 million acres, offering something for everyone. Because hours of operation, entrance fees, and regulations vary, call the parks directly for specific information. For local park information, check the front of your telephone directory under State Government, Department of Parks and Recreation.

For general park information, write to Public Information, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001, call (916) 653-6995, or e-mail info@parks.ca.gov.

For camping reservations call (800) 444-PARK (7275).

To receive a California State Parks Store merchandise catalog, write to the California State Parks Store, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001, or call (916) 653-4000.



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS.
www.cal-parks.ca.gov

PETE WILSON
Governor

DOUGLAS P. WHEELER
Secretary for Resources

PATRICIA J. MEGASON
Interim Director, California State Parks

Limekiln State Park
63025 Highway 1
Big Sur, CA 93920
(831) 667-2403

Visitors with disabilities should contact the park office to determine if their specific needs can be met.

© 1998 California State Parks

Printing funded by California Land Management



printed on recycled paper

LIMEKILN STATE PARK



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS.

“From the Redwoods to the Sea”

best describes Limekiln State Park located on the rugged Big Sur coastline. With a small crescent of beach, this state park, 50 miles south of Carmel, has just about everything a visitor could want—whether it's a magnificent view or peaceful solitude. At the lowest elevation, an energetic surf washes over the offshore rocks, while rowdy seabirds wheel and dive. Further inland, Limekiln Creek's three tributaries offer opportunities for quiet meditation, moderate-to-easy hiking, or just getting your feet wet. Deep within the redwood sanctuary along the west fork of Limekiln Creek tower the four enormous kilns from which the creek takes its name.

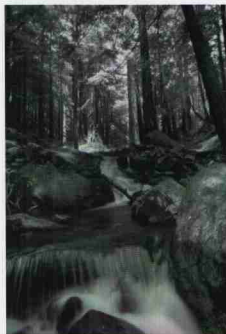
HISTORY

The rich history of Limekiln State Park includes use by the Salinans, Native Americans whose “midden” sites are located in the park.

The manufacture of lime at this location dates back to the early 1880s, when Rockland Lime and Lumber Company began lime kiln operations. Four stone-and-steel furnaces were built at the base of a large, natural landslide that eroded from a limestone deposit. These kilns were loaded with the stone, which had been sledged to the site, and with large quantities of cordwood to maintain a fire. This process, called “firing,” slaked, or purified, the limestone, which was then packed into barrels made on-the-spot and hauled in wagons nearly a mile down the canyon.

At Rockland Landing a steam engine-powered cable loaded the barrels aboard shipping vessels for a trip up the coast where the lime was used as cement and in other commercial products.

Today, Limekiln Trail roughly follows the old wagon trail, and visitors can see the massive furnaces and parts of the old roadbed once used to move the lime to Rockland Landing.



The trail to the historic limekilns meanders along cascading Limekiln and West Fork creeks and through a small grove of redwoods.

PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE

Rising from sea level to over 5,000 feet, the land from Limekiln Creek to Cone Peak presents the steepest coastal slope in the continental United States. This unique topography supports a rich and diverse variety of animal habitat and plant communities. Its importance as an ecosystem was recognized in 1983, when the United Nations included it as part of their Man and the Biosphere Reserve system.

The redwoods growing on the property are some of the oldest and largest in Monterey County. Young redwoods, oaks, sycamores, and maples thrive in the canyons; chaparral and scrub are found at higher elevations. With a year-round water supply from Limekiln Creek, the area provides excellent habitat for a wide diversity of birds and animals, including peregrine falcons, mountain lions, bobcats, squirrels, deer, foxes, raccoons, and ringtailed cats. Poison oak is a natural part of the ecosystem. Visitors should learn how to recognize and avoid it.

DAY USE

The 300-foot beach area is one of the few on this part of the coast which is readily accessible, making it an ideal destination for families and people with disabilities. Day-use includes picnicking, fishing, and hiking. Visitors may take the easy 1/2 mile hike to the four historic limekilns at the base of the original limestone deposit.

Since there are only a few day-use parking spaces, visitors are asked to carpool.

Please use caution when near the ocean; the surf and waves are unpredictable.

CAMPING

Visitors can take their pick of camping adventures. The 31 developed campsites in the trees offer the sounds of nearby Limekiln Creek to lull campers to sleep. Another 11 campsites near the beach boast a breathtaking sunset view, with the sounds of sea birds wheeling over the rolling surf. Either choice will guarantee a memorable experience for the entire family. Hot showers are available. Camping reservations are highly recommended at this popular campground.

**Reservations may be made by calling
(800) 444-PARK (7275).**

CONCESSIONS

The park is operated cooperatively by California State Parks and a concessionaire. There is a small store on-site for the sale of groceries (non-perishable only), firewood, and some camping gear. Since gasoline and propane are not available on-site, visitors are asked to bring their own.



To Carmel (56 mi.)
To Lucia (2 mi.)

Campground Detail (NOT TO SCALE)

